

IF YOU DIED TODAY, WOULD YOU GO TO HEAVEN?

Intro:

- a) What a privilege to be able to stand before you and talk about God's Word.
- b) Think of how great Heaven will be, we sing the song "I know of a place called Heaven" and we read from the Scriptures how great a place Heaven will beread Rev. 21:19-21, but it is no good reading and singing about this if we do not know whether we are going there.
- c) 1 John 5:13 . . ."you can know that you have eternal life."
- d) So the Question to ask ourselves is, "If I Died today would I go to heaven ?"
- e) The three points that I would like to discuss today is
 - 1. The Bible has been given to us so that we may know our status with God;
 - 2. Jesus paid the debt for you !
 - 3. What is it that I have to do ?

Body: I. THE BIBLE HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT YOU MAY KNOW YOUR STATUS WITH GOD.

A. Romans 3:23 . . ."For all have sinned and fallen.."

1) 1 John 1:8-10 . . ."If we say we have not . . ."

a) We need to see and underline the word ALL as it applies to you and me.
We are in the flesh and that means that we can stumble and we have sinned and had it not been for the Grace of God we would be LOST. One may be good morally, even better to the point of being better than most "professed Christians" but that is not enough. You are a sinner and ALL have fallen short of the Glory of God.

2) THAT, MY FRIEND, IS BAD NEWS.

a) Romans 5:12 . . ."with sin comes death..."

Not a physical death but a spiritual death -- a separation from God.

3) You may be asking well what is this Sin that I am doing that separates me from God?

a) James 1:13-15 . . ."Drawn away by his own desires..."

b) This is what leads to sin, but 1 John 3:4 tells us exactly what sin is . . ."it is the transgression of Law."

B. With all this Bad news there must be a way out for us to be right with God.

There is a ray of GOOD NEWS AND THAT IS . . .

II. GOD HAS GIVEN US A WAY OUT BY THE DEBT THAT CHRIST PAID FOR YOU.

- A. Use the illustration of the cheque book and the paying off of all debts.
- B. God said that he will make a new covenant with His people—Jeremiah 31:31 . . ."your sins will be forgotten" Hebrews 8:7-13 . . .prophecy fulfilled.
- 1. A good point to remember is that the sacrifice of the blood of bulls and goats was not enough, but through the blood of Christ we have salvation Hebrews 9:11-15, 9:27-28
- 2. Romans 5:8 . . ."Christ died while yet ye were still sinners."
1 Peter 1:3-5 . . ."according to his abundant mercy."
- C. John 3:16 . . ."for God so loved the world that..."
 - 1. Christ paid a debt HE DID NOT OWE, and you owe a debt that you can *NOT* pay. You were condemned and Lost but God saw fit to send his Son-- NOT TO CONDEMN, BUT TO SAVE. John 3:17-21
- D. Christ paid the debt for all sinners but not all will adhere to the commands and not all will go into everlasting life. Matt 7:21-23.

E. ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THIS OFFER ?

III. THIS IS YOUR PART !

- A. God has done His part. NOW it is for you to follow and do your part by showing your love for Him by obeying His commandments. John 14:15 .
- B. Romans 10:17 . . ."You need to hear the Word."
Romans 10:8-10 . . ."You need to confess Him . . ."
Acts 2:38 . . ."You need to repent and be baptized."
For in Baptism you are baptized into Christ. Romans 6:3-4, 1 Peter 3:18-22
- C. This is just the starting place. After this comes the hard part and that is living a good Christian life and striving to be better.
Galatians 5:22-25 & 2 Peter 1:5-10.

Conc: Christ has prepared a place for you. He has given us a description of what it will be like.

- a) Christ is offering His hand in friendship.
- b) I hope that you do not see fit to refuse the hand of God.
- c) Each of us, alone, will decide our eternal destiny. God votes for us, Satan votes against us. We cast the deciding vote. What is your vote??